

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is made to eliminate multiple claim dependency. Examination on the merits of the application is requested. A marked up version showing the changes made to the claims is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

3. (Amended) A composition according to Claim [or Claim 2] 1, wherein said particulate polymer is formed from the residues of a monomer mixture comprising at least 50 wt% methyl methacrylate.
6. (Amended) A composition according to Claim 1 [any preceding claim], wherein said monomer mixture includes at least 0.1 wt% of a comonomer which is capable of forming cross-linking with the polymer.
7. (Amended) A composition according to [any preceding claim] Claim 1, wherein said particulate polymer is formed from the residues of a monomer mixture comprising 70 - 95 wt% MMA, 5 - 30 wt% of a copolymerisable acrylic comonomer and 0.1 - 5 wt% of a comonomer which is capable of forming cross-linking within the polymer.
8. (Amended) A composition according to [any preceding claim] Claim 1 which includes at least 1 wt% and less than 40 wt% of said particulate polymer.
9. (Amended) A composition according to [any preceding claim] Claim 1, wherein the particles of said particulate polymer are of a size such that they could pass through a 500 μ m sieve.

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10. (Amended) A composition according to [any preceding claim] Claim 1, wherein at least 20 wt% of particles of said particulate polymer are between 60 (250 μm) and 80 (177 μm) mesh.

13. (Amended) A method according to Claim 11 [or Claim 12], wherein said melt-processable polymer and said particulate polymer are mixed by extrusion under conditions such that particles of said particulate polymer are broken down.

14. A method according to [any of Claims 11 to 13] Claim 11, wherein said melt-processable polymer and said particulate polymer are not caused to chemically react during said mixing and/or extrusion.

15. (Amended) A method of forming an article which comprises shaping a melt-processable thermoplastic composition according to [any of Claims 1 to 10 or as prepared according to any of Claims 11 to 14] Claim 1 in order to form said article.

18. (Amended) A method according to [any of Claims 15 to 17] Claim 15, wherein said composition is extruded or co-extruded.

19. (Amended) A method according to [any of Claims 15 to 18] Claim 15, wherein said article includes a substrate and a capstock material wherein said capstock material comprises said melt-processable thermoplastic composition.

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20. (Amended) A method according to [any of Claims 15 to 19] Claim 15, wherein said article is a building component.

21. (Amended) A method according to [any of Claims 15 to 20] Claim 15, wherein said article is a component for use in construction and is a co-extruded component comprising a substrate made of PVC, HIPS or ABS and said melt-processable thermoplastic material provided as a capstock thereon.

22. (Amended) A method according to [any of Claims 15 to 21] Claim 15, wherein when a surface of the article formed of said thermoplastic composition is tested for impact resistance in accordance with ASTM D4226, the mean failure height is not less than 7.5 inches (19.05 cm).

25. (Amended) An article which includes a substrate and a capstock material prepared from a thermoplastic composition as described in [any of Claims 1 to 10 or when prepared in a method according to any of Claims 11 to 22 or 24] Claim 1.

26. (Amended) An article according to [any of Claims 19, 21, 24 or 25] Claim 19, wherein said capstock layer or material has a thickness of less than 200 μm .

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